

**RESOLUTION NO. 74444**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE APPROVING A NEW COUNCIL POLICY ENTITLED “PROHIBITION OF CITY FUNDING FOR PURCHASE OF SINGLE-SERVING BOTTLED WATER”**

**WHEREAS**, the City of San José (“City”) is a leader in the area of environmental preferable procurement, and as such desires to demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship, its confidence in California’s extensive water supply sources and infrastructure, and prudent fiscal policy, the City desires to discontinue, to the maximum extent possible, use of City funds to purchase single-serve water bottles for City events and for events taking place in City facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to establish a Prohibition of City Funding for Purchase of Single-Serving Bottled Water Policy, in order to reduce the impact on the environment from the manufacturing, filling, transporting and disposing of plastic bottles; and

**WHEREAS**, public comment was received and it was moved and approved that the proposed Policy, attached as Exhibit A, be adopted by resolution;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE THAT:

The attached Council Policy, entitled “Prohibition of City Funding for Purchase of Single-Serving Bottled Water” is hereby approved.

ADOPTED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES: CAMPOS, CHIRCO, CHU, CORTESE, LICCARDO,  
NGUYEN, OLIVERIO, PYLE, WILLIAMS, REED.

NOES: CONSTANT.

ABSENT: NONE.

DISQUALIFIED: NONE.

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CHUCK REED  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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LEE PRICE, MMC  
City Clerk

RESO\_74444  
Council Agenda: 6-17-08  
Item No.: 7.4

## EXHIBIT A

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PROHIBITION OF CITY FUNDING FOR PURCHASE OF SINGLE-SERVING BOTTLED WATER	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISED DATE

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to reduce the purchase of single-serving bottled water by generally prohibiting the use of City funds for such purposes, with limited exceptions, to demonstrate the City's commitment to environmental, economic, and social stewardship. The City of San José is a leader in the area of environmentally preferable procurement and, through its actions, elicits changes in the marketplace. In eliminating the purchase of single-serving bottled water, a product that creates significant environmental impacts throughout its product life cycle, where ample potable water supply of high quality is available, the City demonstrates its commitment to environmental stewardship, its confidence in California's extensive water supply sources and infrastructure, and prudent fiscal policy.

### Background

Consumption of bottled water has grown dramatically in the last few years. Americans bought 38 billion plastic water bottles (filled with more than 8.25 billion gallons of water) in 2006, a 9.5% increase from the year before. Production of bottled water is very resource intensive and has worldwide impacts. Supplying Americans with plastic water bottles for one year consumes more than 47 million gallons of oil, enough to take 100,000 cars off the road and 1 billion pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, according to the Container Recycling Institute. The bottling process uses more than 1.5 million barrels of petroleum and 75 billion gallons of water annually (it takes approximately 9 gallons of water to bottle one gallon). In addition, after the water is bottled, it is shipped around the world. –The three of the largest exporters to the U.S are Fiji, France and Italy. Finally, over 75 percent of the single-serve bottles are discarded, adding almost 2 billion pounds of plastic to landfills across the country. The bulk of the bottles that are recycled are shipped to China for processing.

Cities and water districts across the country, funded by ratepayers and state and federal governments, are spending billions of dollars to provide safe, clean drinking water from the tap. Locally, the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the three water retailers within City limits spent approximately \$411 million last year to provide clean safe potable water. Unfortunately, the migration from tap to bottled water fosters a perception that tap water isn't safe or necessary. In truth, tap water quality standards are much more stringent than those for bottled water and the cost of bottled water ranges from 240 to over 10,000 times more expensive, depending on the brand of bottled water.

### Policy

1. It is the Policy of the City of San José that public funds should not be used for the purchase of single-serving bottled water.
2. The following circumstances shall constitute exceptions to the Policy:

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- Public safety emergencies, investigations, and extended deployments or activation of the Office of Emergency Services;
  - High risk of cross-contamination with non-potable water such as at the Water Pollution Control Plant; or
  - Situations where there are no reasonable alternatives to bottled water..
3. The City Manager shall promulgate an administrative policy implementing the procedural elements of the Policy and report annually to the Council on the accomplishment of the Policy's goals.
  4. City contracts and grant agreements requiring the expenditure of City funds shall contain obligations to follow this Policy.
  5. The City Administration shall encourage City employees to engage in environmentally responsible practices, such as using and maintaining reusable containers for their personal consumption of water.

This Policy is not intended to preclude employee-funded water "clubs" or any bottled water purchased from any source by an individual or company using private funds.